



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2009

LCO No. 6517

SJ0004306517SR0

Offered by:

SEN. DEBICELLA, 21st Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Joint Resolution
No. 43

File No. 135

Cal. No. 161

***"RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE
CONSTITUTION CONCERNING VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT."***

1 In line 1, before "That", insert "Section 1."

2 After line 24, insert the following:

3 "Sec. 501. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the
4 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the
5 manner provided by the Constitution, shall to all intents and purposes,
6 become a part thereof:

7 Section 1. Section 1 of article third of the Constitution is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 The legislative power of this state, except for the powers of initiative
10 and referendum reserved by the people, shall be vested in two distinct
11 houses or branches; the one to be styled the senate, the other the house
12 of representatives, and both together the general assembly. The style of
13 their laws shall be: Be it enacted by the Senate and House of

14 Representatives in General Assembly convened.

15 Section 2. Article eleventh of the Constitution is amended by
16 adding sections 6 and 7 as follows:

17 (NEW) Sec. 6. An initiative measure may be proposed by presenting
18 to the Secretary of the State a petition that sets forth the text of the
19 proposed law and that is certified to have been signed by a number of
20 electors equal to at least five per cent of those registered to vote in the
21 preceding gubernatorial election. The initiative shall be voted on in the
22 next general election after certifying the petition, and shall be valid if it
23 receives a majority of "yes" votes with at least sixty per cent of the
24 eligible voters casting ballots. No initiative measure may be introduced
25 that (1) names an individual to hold any office, (2) names a private
26 corporation to perform any function or to have any power, (3) creates
27 or abolishes courts, prescribes their rules or alters their decisions, (4)
28 proposes special legislation affecting municipalities, (5) increases
29 spending without increasing taxes, or (6) was the subject of an
30 initiative proposal within the three preceding calendar years. The
31 General Assembly may amend an initiative passed by the public, but
32 only after three years after its implementation date.

33 (NEW) Sec. 7. A referendum measure may be proposed by
34 presenting to the Secretary of the State a petition that sets forth the law
35 or part thereof to be submitted to the electors for approval or rejection
36 and that is certified to have been signed by a number of electors equal
37 to at least five per cent of those registered to vote in the preceding
38 gubernatorial election. The referendum shall be voted on in the next
39 general election after certifying the petition, and shall be valid if it
40 receives a majority of "yes" votes with at least sixty per cent of the
41 eligible voters casting ballots. No referendum shall be allowed that (1)
42 changes laws necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
43 peace, (2) changes health or safety standards, (3) changes laws
44 requiring elections, (4) names a private corporation to perform any
45 function or to have any power, (5) creates or abolishes courts,
46 prescribes their rules or alters their decisions, (6) proposes special

47 legislation affecting municipalities, (7) increases spending without
48 increasing taxes, or (8) was the subject of a referendum in the three
49 preceding calendar years. The General Assembly may amend a
50 referendum passed by the public, but only after three years after its
51 implementation date.

52 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
53 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
54 elected at the general election to be held on November 4, 2008, and
55 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
56 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 4, 2008,
57 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the
58 amendments to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed
59 amendment to be used on the voting machine ballot labels and
60 absentee ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
61 State be amended to grant the powers of initiative and referendum to
62 the people of Connecticut?"